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**Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States**

**General and complete disarmament: consolidation of peace through practical disarmament issues**

## Letter dated 22 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova on the fourth year since the conclusion of the Moldovan-Russian agreement of 21 October 1994 on the status, modalities and the terms of the withdrawal of the military formations of the Russian Federation, temporarily located on the territory of the Republic of Moldova (see annex).

May I ask your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its attachment as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 64 and 71 (j).

(*Signed*) Ion **Botnaru**

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# Annex

## Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova on the fourth year since the conclusion of the Moldovan-Russian agreement of 21 October 1994 on the status, modalities and the terms of the withdrawal of the military formations of the Russian Federation, temporarily located on the territory of the Republic of Moldova

21 October 1998 marks the fourth year since the conclusion of the Moldovan-Russian agreement on withdrawal of Russian Federation troops from the territory of the Republic of Moldova. The main provisions of that document stipulated that the presence of Russian troops on the territory of the Republic of Moldova was temporary and that the Russian side, taking into account technical possibilities and the time needed to relocate the military units, would withdraw the mentioned troops in three years.

Today, it is the fourth year since the conclusion of the agreement, and we state with regret that the agreement has not been fulfilled, and insignificant results were obtained in the evacuation of the troops. Moreover, as of today, there is no schedule for orderly and complete withdrawal of the Russian military units from the territory of the Republic of Moldova, and the process of liquidation of non-transportable munitions has not been accomplished.

Deriving from the fact that the mentioned agreement does not expressly stipulate the necessity of its ratification by the parties, we reiterate our opinion regarding the possibility of making it effective by a decision of the Government of the Russian Federation. It should be recalled that the Moldovan side proceeded in this very way - the Government of the Republic of Moldova approved the agreement by a decision of 9 November 1994. It is worth mentioning that the process of withdrawal could have been started not only based on the provisions of the agreement signed on 21 October 1994, but also in accordance with the resolutions of the Budapest and Lisbon summits, held in 1994 and 1996, respectively, which were adopted by consensus, including by the Russian Federation, and constitute a sufficient legal framework for the evacuation of the troops.

At the same time, conventional armaments can be removed from the territory of Moldova under the provisions of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty), to which the Russian Federation is a party and which contains mandatory implications for all signatory States. The delay of the withdrawal could lead to serious complications in the process of the ratification of the adapted CFE Treaty. Its ratification by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova without the settlement of the issue of withdrawal of conventional armaments by the Russian Federation from the country's territory, could mean a flagrant violation of the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, which prohibits the location of foreign troops on the territory of the country.

The lack of any essential progress in the issue of withdrawal of Russian military formations from the Republic of Moldova affects the existing relations with the Russian Federation, which are qualified by our country as friendly and mutually profitable. The leadership of our country hopes that the Russian authorities, in the spirit of traditional relations, will undertake adequate measures with the aim of implementing integrally the bilateral agreement of 1994. This fact would contribute to ensuring an advanced level of

security and stability, not only for our country, but for the whole region, and would prove the respect for generally recognized norms and principles that guide the relations between States.